MONTEREY NEWS

November 2006
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The Town

The Select Board had fewer meetings than usual this month due to Yom Kippur on October 2 and the Columbus Day holiday on October 9.

Operations

On October 2 Select Board member Jon Sylbert, the sole board member present, met with Director of Operations Maynard Forbes to discuss Highway Department items. Forbes reported that Rich Crittenden, a Highway Department employee, had spent the better part of a morning up to his waist in frigid water in an attempt to clear out a plugged-up five-foot culvert on Cronk Road. Forbes, who came in with a photograph of the work (see p. 3), said that despite Crittenden's valiant effort an excavator finally had to be brought in to clear the jam.

Sylbert and Forbes also discussed the punch list of items to be completed prior to renting Bally Gally (a house left to the town by Edith Wilson). On October 16 Forbes reported to the Select Board that the carpet was scheduled to be installed on October 17, and at the October 23 meeting Forbes reported that the house was ready for the renters.

The October 16 meeting was a chilly one, there being no heat in Town Hall. It was determined that there was no fuel oil in the tank. Lipton Energy had been called the previous Friday about the delivery schedule and made a delivery later Monday morning.

Also on October 16 the annual drawdown of Lake Garfield was begun by opening the gate on the dam approximately 18 inches. Forbes said that the drawdown

Mark Makuc

Monterey Library children's reading group marching in the I Love Monterey Day parade.

must be carefully monitored so as not to flood out construction at the bridge on River Road. He added that because the drawdown is being done gradually it would take three weeks this year instead of the usual two weeks. On October 23 the gate was opened an additional 12 inches.

Forbes updated the Select Board on the status of a truck that the Highway Department ordered in July and was slated for delivery in September. Forbes called General Motors and was initially told that the truck would not be delivered until March 2007 but by the end of the conversation the delivery date was amended to December 2006.

On October 23 during his usual weekly meeting with the Select Board, Forbes said that work on Fairview Road would begin in the second week of November. Work to be done includes creating three catch basins, installing two culverts, and some work on the banks along the road. He also indicated that no through traffic would be allowed on the road for a few days.

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At that same meeting Forbes reported that the split rail fence at Brewer Pond had been repaired as per the board's request, and that the catch basins had been marked for winter plowing.

Building Issues

During his weekly meeting with the Select Board on October 16, Building Commisioner Don Torrico reported that the Monterey Water Company had not filed for a building permit for the new pump house being constructed on Sandisfield Road. Torrico said that he had mentioned the oversight to some Water Company board members, but had no response. He also stated that, to his knowledge, no plumbing or electrical inspections have been performed either. While the Select Board meeting was in progress the contractor for the Monterey Water Company came in with a building permit application.

On October 23 Torrico reported to the Select Board that he had received an application for a building permit from June Rauch, which he had to deny due to insufficient frontage for the lot, which was also nonconforming in size. In his letter Torrico advised Rauch to apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance from the Monterey Zoning Bylaws.

June Rauch met with the Select Board later that morning and explained that her Bidwell Road lakeshore property had 50 feet of frontage and 5000 square feet of land when it was purchased. In the process of surveying it became apparent that the owners of the abutting property had constructed steps on the Rauch property. Not wanting to alienate her new neighbors, Rauch agreed to convey the 10 feet where the steps were encroaching, in return for the abutters conveying ten feet of property near the lake. Unbeknownst to Rauch, that exchange did two things: it reduced the frontage to below the state minimum of 50 feet, and it caused the property to lose it's grandfathered rights. Where she once had a parcel of lakefront property with a building site, she has now lost the right to build.

It was later revealed that Rauch had already sought a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals and that it had been denied. She said that she did not attend the ZBA hearing and did not know the reasons for the denial. She was advised that she should request copies of all the information contained in the ZBA folder on the hearing, and listen to the taped recording of the proceedings. She was also advised that since the hearing was two years ago she could reapply for a variance.

Torrico submitted to the Select Board a copy of a letter he wrote to the Monterey Fire Company Ltd. stating that the review of their proposal to construct a training facility near the firehouse was complete and that it is a use by right to construct a municipal building in the Agricultural-Residential district.

Fire Company

In a follow-up interview Fire Chief Ray Tryon described the proposed training facility. The proposal is to construct

a steel building of twenty-two feet wide by forty-eight feet long and thirty-four feet high, which would house two burn rooms and facilitate in search-and-rescue practice. Tryon emphasized that the project is in its infancy and will progress slowly. The estimated cost is about $300,000, with the initial $100,000 coming from the Monterey Fire Company and the remaining monies to be raised. Tryon reported that many of the firefighters are willing to volunteer their labor to construct the facility.

Tryon gave a sketch of firefighting over the past fifty years. In the 1950s houses were balloon construction made of wood. The basic farmhouse fire would not be over 800º F; this type, known as "free burning" fires, are not that difficult to extinguish. With the advent of fiberglass insulation and glazed double-pane windows, fire temperatures rose to 1200º. Now, with the multiple synthetic materials used in building and decorating, fires can reach temperatures of up to 2000º, basically an incinerator. Toxic gases from synthetic materials can accumulate and create a flashover, and the National Fire Protection Association mandates that every firefighter wear total gear including a fire-resistant hood that goes under the helmet and over the mask.

Tyron explained that in Monterey we do not get many house fires, which is good, of course, until you do get one. The purpose of the training facility is to protect firefighters and citizens by providing training that keeps the firefighters up to date with various techniques of rescue and gives them an understanding of how new materials act in combustion. The proposed building would allow firefighters to practice advancing hose techniques on live fires, enable them to practice using their SCBA, (self contained breathing apparatus), and practice search and rescue using a dummy and manufactured smoke. The facility would have ladders for practice and host workshops on rappelling down buildings.

Chief Tyron explained that the proposal is the brainchild of the members of the Monterey Fire Company and not all his idea. He alluded to the fact that he would be stepping down in the near future and said, "To be prepared for tomorrow we must plan for the future." Tryon reported that four firefighters, Del Martin, Matt McMahon, Dan Hamill, and David Hamill, are attending sixteen hours of Firefighter 1, 2, and Plus classes per week. That is in addition to their regular work schedules. The chief added that the entire department has completed Firefighter 1 and 2 and noted that Matt McMahon and Dan and David Hamill are new recruits.

Maynard Forbes

Highway Departmentt foreman Rich Crittenden stands in cold October water cleaning out a culvert plugged up by beavers—going way beyond duty.

Police Blotter

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported the following Police Department activity to the Select Board: responded to >

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a motor vehicle accident on September 26 on Main Road; disabled motor vehicle at the Town Hall; complaint on Beartown Mountain Road about dirt bikes riding on the road; two false alarms, one on Brett Road and one on Cronk Road; an excavator vandalized on Beartown Mountain Road; a missing person on Benedict Pond Road—later found; a motor vehicle stop that revealed a revoked license, resulting in the car being towed; flat tire assistance at the General Store; complaint from the Transfer Station of someone refusing to pay the fee for disposing of demolition material.

Due to increased pedestrian and horse traffic in Monterey, the Police Department was requested to step up patrols on Tyringham Road, Route 23 in the mornings, and Sandisfield Road. The requests were made by citizens who, either at home or on the road, believed that cars were traveling well in excess of the speed limit or felt endangered by them.

Kinne's Grove Boat Access

Deborah Mielke of Corashire Realty and Rodney Palmer met with the Select Board on October 16 to inform the board that the lakefront property known as Kinne's Grove was for sale. Kinne's Grove is on Route 23 about a mile east of the center of Monterey and provides the only public boat access to Lake Garfield from June to September. The property, which was never advertised, is currently under contract. Select Board member Jon Sylbert suggested that the town should try to purchase the $1,275,000.00 property, which is represented by Brockman Realty. Sylbert noted that there had been pressure from the state for Monterey to provide more public boat access to Lake Garfield, and that this would be a perfect opportunity. Select Board chair Michael Storch suggested contacting representative Smitty Pignatelli to see if state funding might be available for such a purchase, and Sylbert concurred.

Deborah Mielke again met with the board on October 23 to provide an update on Kinne's Grove. According to the realtor, William Brockman, the town will be notified if the current sale does not proceed. Mielke questioned what the procedure would be for the town to raise that amount of money in a relatively short time. She pointed out that this would probably be an important consideration to anyone selling property to a municipality. Select Board member Jon Sylbert said that the Select Board would have to hold a special town meeting and citizens would have to know where the financing would come from. He also reported that Select Board chair Michael Storch had contacted Smitty Pignatelli about the possible developments. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart suggested that an ad-hoc committee might need to be formed to assist with the process.

This and That

In an effort to update what is reportedly an antiquated phone system in Town Hall, the Select Board met with two communications companies during the October 16 meeting. Apparently it is not possible to use the existing phone system for office to office calls within Town Hall, and there are other problems as well. A representative from Valley Communications in Springfield met with the Select Board to review his findings and ascertain the needs of the town. He will be reviewing current phone bills and examining the phone lines in the server room at Town Hall. The Select Board then met with two representatives from DT Communications. Both groups are taking stock of the existing phone system and creating bid packages for the installation and maintenance of a new one.

The Select Board met with Planning Board members Maggie Leonard (full disclosure: that's me), Brian Puntin, Laurily Epstein, and Stephen Rose during the October 16 meeting to discuss legal options for reviewing a complicated survey

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plan that is before the Planning Board. The Planning Board members asked about the procedure for seeking a second legal opinion in addition to one from the Town Counsel. The Select Board urged the Planning Board to seek additional legal advice if they believe it to be necessary. Select Board member and former Planning Board member Wayne Burkhart recommended that the Planning Board consult the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, which has a lot of expertise in sorting out complicated land matters.

Melissa Noe, the Interdepartmental Secretary, asked the Select Board if the town would be willing to participate in the Berkshire Community Action Council's annual Thanksgiving basket collection. These baskets provide nonperishable food items to low income families during the holidays. The board approved using Town Hall as a collection site for the food drive. Melissa also mentioned that Berkshire Community Action Council was sponsoring needy families for the Christmas holidays through the Watson Fund. She will get more information on how the town can participate in the program.

Corashire Cemetery Notice

Corashire Cemetery will be closed to burials as of November 15, 2006, and reopen in early April 2007, weather permitting.

On October 23 the Select Board met with Jenna Ford and Tom Webb of Berkshire Mediation Services. The Select Board is investigating ways of dealing with conflicts between employees and appointed and elected officials in a more professional manner. Ford asked the board if there is a handbook with personnel policies or grievance procedures in place for town employees or elected and appointed officials. Melissa Noe said that such a document is being created. Ford said that job descriptions are also often helpful in defining how work is to get done. If hired, Ford said that she would interview several people to get an understanding of various viewpoints, make an assessment, and create a report with recommendations to the Select Board. The report would outline issues and interests and would not be about personalities.

— Maggie Leonard

Maggie Leonard graciously agreed to cover the town news for this issue while Laurily Epstein is recovering from a broken wrist.

Helping Neighbors in Need

This Thanksgiving the Monterey Town Hall will be accepting donations for local families in need through the Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC), Great Barrington office, to support their "Thanksgiving Baskets" program. The BCAC has been helping neighbors during tough times since 1967 and has offices in North Adams, Great Barrington, and Pittsfield. The BCAC is federally designated as the "Anti-Poverty Agency" for Berkshire County.

Between now and November 15 you may drop off the following **nonperishable** items to aid in creating "Thanksgiving Baskets" for our neighbors suffering tough times: juice, dressing (stuffing mixes/ingredients), cranberry sauce, soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, gravy.

Some perishable items can also go into the baskets, such as potatoes, butter, rolls, desserts, and a chicken or turkey. If you wish to contribute toward one of these items a gift card to Big Y or Price Chopper would be most appreciated.

A box for donations will be located outside of the Inter-Departmental Secretary's office in the town hall, which is open Mondays from 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday–Friday from 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Melissa Noe, Inter-Departmental Secretary, at 528-1443 x11.

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Planning Board News

The Planning Board spent no small amount of time over the last month trying to understand a complicated land survey that was submitted by Mike Parsons of Kelly, Granger, Parsons & Associates for Barry and Marjorie Jaffes' Hupi Road property. The plan shows 6.2 acres in the lakeshore district on Hupi Road with ample frontage; within the 6.2-acre lot are 35 parcels of land surveyed on a channel of water that flows in from Lake Garfield. The 35 parcels are 27 feet wide on the east side (parcels 1–17) and 28.37 feet wide on the west side (parcels 18–35). The plan also shows a right-of-way to access parcels 1–17 with access to parcels 18-35 being by Scott and Phelps Roads which, even though called "roads," are actually right of ways. The plan was submitted as an ANR (Approval Not Required) and was unlike any plan to ever come before the Planning Board.

Mike Parsons explained that the plan was entitled to an ANR endorsement from the Planning Board because it was not subdivision. Since the Planning Board had no prior experience with this kind of survey it did look like a subdivision to some of us: an extremely tiny subdivision. Parsons again explained that the plan showed only one lot and that the 35 surveyed pieces are parcels—there is, he said, an important distinction between lots and parcels. The Planning Board voted to consult Town Counsel Jerome Scully for his opinion.

Town Counsel Scully reviewed the plan and reported to the Planning Board that in his opinion the plan showed a subdivision and was not entitled to an ANR endorsement. At the September 28 Planning Board meeting, Jess Worman of Kelly, Granger, Parsons & Associates was informed of the decision by Town Counsel. However, at that time Mike Parsons provided additional information to support the claim that the plan was entitled to an ANR endorsement. The board duly submitted the additional information to Town Counsel, and the Jaffes granted the Planning Board a lengthy extension so that it might have ample time to understand and come to terms with the plan. Town Counsel read the additional information submitted by Parsons, which was copied from the ANR Handbook (from the Massachusetts Office of Housing and Community Development). Attorney Scully was unmoved by the information and reiterated that the applicant was not entitled to an ANR endorsement.

The October 12 meeting of the Planning Board was attended by Sydney Smithers, an attorney from Cain, Hibbard & Myers representing the Jaffes, their surveyor Mike Parsons, and Rick Mielke, the caretaker of the property. The Planning board had received a legal brief from Cain, Hibbard & Myers on the previous day, as had Town Counsel Jerome Scully. Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard (full disclosure: me) received a call from Town Counsel just before the meeting recommending that the Planning Board now endorse the plan as an ANR. The legal brief consisted of case law that supported the Jaffes contention that the plan shows only one lot. The definition of a lot is: "An area of land in one ownership with definite boundaries, used or available for use as the site of one or more buildings." Parcels 1–35 are not building lots and therefore not lots at all, but *parcels*. Smithers and Parsons said that the Jaffes intent is to place the land in a conservation restriction and that the parcels would increase the value of the land. The Planning Board, while appreciating the information, noted that this information was purely anecdotal and concentrated on the fact that the plan would be a recorded plan that would live on beyond the Jaffes intentions. Planning Board members were keen to be certain that they had all the necessary facts before either accepting or denying the plan.

Board member Cindy Hoogs suggested that the board ask for language to be included on the plan stating that endorsement of the plan does not imply that any of the parcels comply with zoning, that none of the 35 parcels are building lots, that none of the parcels may be combined to create building lots, and that none of the right-of-ways constitute road frontage.

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Smithers and Parsons agreed to include this language on the plan.

However the Planning Board was still not willing to endorse the plan as an ANR—at this point we had received two letters from Town Counsel saying "don't endorse" and one quick phone call recommending an endorsement. The board voted that Town Counsel should issue a letter explaining his reversal. The letter was duly issued, saying that after reading the legal brief and, most importantly, discussing the matter with Don Schmidt, chief planner at the Office of Housing and Community Development, Scully now realized that legally the applicants were entitled to an ANR endorsement. The plan does not depict a subdivision since no lots are created and no road frontage is created.

At a special meeting convened by the Planning Board on October 23 (posted with the Town Clerk on October 18), board member Laurily Epstein wondered, "Then what is being created? I don't understand this plan." This echoed the sentiments of the other board members present. Board member Brian Puntin made a motion to seek a second legal opinion (especially since Town Counsel was on vacation), which was seconded by Laurily Epstein, and unanimously agreed upon by the board. Board chair Maggie Leonard spoke to attorney Sally Bell, well known for her expertise in land matters, and brought the plan to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for review. Both sources, after some study and consultation, concurred that the applicants were entitled to an ANR endorsement. It was an unusual plan and the Planning Board was determined to exercise due diligence in the matter. At that point the Planning Board agreed that they had pursued every avenue of investigation and were ready to vote on the plan, which included the language submitted by Hoogs, at the October 26 meeting. Of the five members present and voting, four members voted to endorse the plan as an ANR, and one member voted against the plan.

The case was an excellent opportunity for Planning Board members to learn about Approval Not Required, or Form A lots, versus subdivisions. The board studied the legal brief with the case law, read in the ANR Handbook, and consulted with several lawyers and Regional Planning. No question we are a much more knowledgeable board than we were in September—and that's a good thing.

— Maggie Leonard, Chair
Monterey Planning Board

Used Ice Skates Needed

Anyone with unneeded used ice skates can bring them to the Transfer Station and give them to the attendant, who will hold them for me. They will be numbered and made available for use by anyone skating this winter at the Monterey ice rink at the firehouse pavilion. Thank you.

— Denise Andrus

Community Potlucks Resume November 8

After a summer break the community potluck dinners will resume on Wednesday, November 8, at 6 p.m. in the Meetinghouse fellowship hall. The programs for the monthly dinners have not yet been planned, so unless something develops beforehand the November dinner will be an organizational meeting to plan what's next.

Please bring something to share for the meal, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself.

For more information or to help with the planning or set-up, please call Kyle Pierce at 528-9213 or Barbara Dahlman at 528-8287.

Veterans Awareness Week

U.S. Senate Resolution 507 encourages all Americans to observe the week of November 5 through November 11 as National Veterans Awareness Week. The Monterey Select Board would also like to recognize our town residents who are on active duty. They are our future veterans. Please take a moment to honor their commitment and sacrifice this Veterans Day.

— Monterey Select Board

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Lake Garfield News

Down Time Is Prep Time for Next Year

Autumn is a prime time in the lake's life to prepare for the next year. Plant growth subsides to rest surrounded by nutrients, if they are not disturbed by drawdown. One pound of phosphorus in lake water will grow 1100 pounds of plant life. (quote of F. Lubnow, freshwater ecologist, *NY Times,* 7/23/06). You read it right—one thousand one hundred pounds of plants to swim and boat against. Those plants this year were like bears fattening up for winter.

Without drawdown, much of those nutrients would remain, to feed the weeds of 2007. This is one of the reasons that a lake turns into wetland and then into a meadow over time. Overfeeding of phosphorus stimulated weed growth this past spring (our spring 2006 level was 73 parts per billion—one of the highest spring levels we've ever recorded), and the weeds grew up thicker than ever, forcing swimmers out into the main channel of the lake, making for dangerous situations. FLG members were concerned about safety. The group did two things:

1) Harbormaster Amidon and this writer took the Select Board for a tour of the lake on 8/17 to see the depth to which the plants were growing this year far out into the small bowl and in the main lake as well. How to avoid this next year?

2) FLG called on and funded Robert Hartzel, water scientist who'd done a detailed plant survey of Garfield in year 2000. Hartzel did a survey on 8/17, and reports to us that the lake still has a large mix of plant growth. That variety and the milfoil beetles we have in population here are holding. The problem is too many plants, not too many of one kind. Hartzel recommends full drawdown as the tool to use. We need a three pronged approach, with government, preservation group and individuals working together. Here it is

1. Information Gathering at Drawdown

In the past, during 1992 and '94 drawdown, Dr. Ken Wagner, a limnologist, was engaged by LGA to do shoreline seepage analysis that gave our town good information on nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates entering the lake. The town has this data. Our Select Board and Conservation Commission, knowing the permitting process for regulating drawdown is highly regulated, wisely appropriated $5500.00 for scientific assistance in gathering data to prepare the next NOI (Notice of Intent) to drawdown. If our government gets started now, we can obtain more important data during this year's drawdown. A well-documented NOI will allow us to continue the process and help control our plant growth.

At the September 9 LAPA-West symposium, many lakes were represented and groups of those that cannot drawdown and have problems are trying to obtain the privilege we at Garfield have. We were told by Jim Straub, Coordinator of Lakes and Ponds of the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, that we will have to supply facts to continue practices of lake management. That means towns need to present hard scientific data, Dr. Wagner's specialty. Hopefully a contract will soon be signed that will give our lake the attention it deserves in winter, not just in summer.

2. Septic Cleaning in the Watershed to Decrease Lake Nutrients: Opportunity Knocks Now

One of Dr. Wagner's earlier studies showed increased seepage of and conductivity (charged particles) in areas where the oldest septic tanks are located and in inflow areas from upstream. To paraphrase a common ad for Las Vegas, what happens in the watershed stays in the watershed. But unfortunately we DO get to know about it—in the form of weeds and algae from increased phosphates and nitrates.

After the large watershed mailing 400 property owners were sent last spring, you all should be pretty aware of how to manage your runoff. But that septic tank is out of sight, and may be out of mind. It shouldn't be. Unless you have one of the newest type of septic systems that automatically calls for cleaning, you'll

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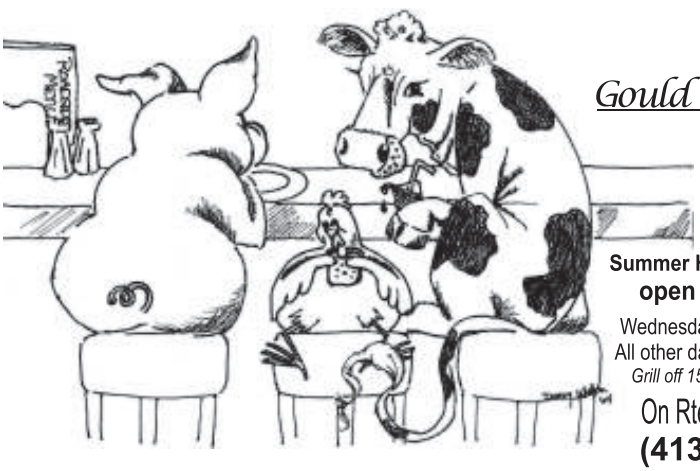

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Friends of Lake Garfield's Hy Rosen is chairing a win-win proposition. Sign up with FLG to get a discount on septic cleaning by Mount Everett. Hy will take your information and relay it to Mt. Everett for pumping and billing to you. Mt. Everett's price is $225.00, less discount (depending on how many folks sign on) of about $25.00. There is an extra charge if they have to go digging for it ($35.00).

Here's how to contact Hy: Email: hytime@ix.netcom.com. Telephone: 917-868-5158.

3. Cleaning up around our Shorelines

After drawdown starts exposing your lakeshore, get the boots on, go out and rake. That stuff makes good mulch and won't multiply on land. Pick up branches that would trap floating weeds. Repair your dock area and clean under it too. If you can't be up to it, ask your local landscaper to refer you to someone who can do this important chore.

If we and our town government stay on the same wavelength, remembering how important autumn is in the life of our lake, we'll be on track to have a better time in the water next summer.

— Pat Edelstein,
FLG Steering Committee

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Late fall and winter is a great time to have your tree work done, modify or create the hardescapes on your propeerty, and create landscape plans for the spring.

Community Center News

On Sunday afternoon, October 15, about fifty people gathered in the basement of the Monterey Meetinghouse to view the PBS documentary on the Quilters of Gee's Bend, Alabama. It was billed on the posters as a "Quiltalicious" occasion (word coined by Joel Shick as there was to be homemade pumpkin pie and apple cider) and was hosted by the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House to honor our local quilting group, the Monterey Piecemakers, who have been making a quilt every year for the past several years and donating it to a local nonprofit group.

Thank you to all the supportive people who stopped and bought raffle tickets from Shirley Olds or me as we sat Saturday mornings on the porch of the General Store. (And special thanks to Kenn Basler, who graciously tolerated our presence there all those Saturdays over the summer.) Of course the major thanks go to the Monterey Piecemakers, who garnered about $2,700 for the benefit of the Monterey Community Center when the ticket sales and the anonymous donations were totaled. The Piecemakers are Barbara Tryon, Mary Kate Jordan, Pam Johnson, Sally Pullen, Marcia Doelman, Jan Emmons, and Gige O'Connell.

And the winner of the raffle was: Julio Rodriguez, of Sylvan Road, Monterey and Derwood, Maryland. Congratulations! And, of course, we are happy that the quilt will have a local resting place.

We did manage to view the Gee's Bend documentary after various technical mishaps, and all found it inspiring and fascinating. The quilters of Gee's Bend have a national reputation (indeed international); they are a very poor and isolated group of women in Alabama who of necessity took scraps of fabrics and creatively quilted them together to create a folkart form. Their artwork has been displayed in museums around the country and featured in a recent issue of postage stamps. As we looked at their creations via the documentary, we appreciated their sense of color and artistry. And because they were isolated, it came a surprise to them that the quilts they made were accepted as works of art fetching thousands of dollars.

Just recently Gee's Bend made the national nightly news when it received the beautiful, modern ferry that will enable the residents to cross the river instead of having to walk miles around the bend to a destination. One of the men in our Sunday audience reminded me that they have been without ferry transportation since 1960 as a way to prevent them from voting during the Civil Rights movement. It has taken all these decades to right that wrong, and perhaps the quilters' renown helped to bring about this justice.

As promised we all had homemade pumpkin pie made by Gerry Shapiro, Shirley Olds, and me, and Susan Sellew's molasses cookies, made with the jealously guarded Jennifer House recipe.

We look forward to many another quiltalicious event as we work toward building a Community Center here in Monterey.

— Gige O'Connell

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Board of Health News

Volunteers Needed for Medical Reserve Corps

The Monterey Board of Health is in the process of generating plans for dealing with the potential need to provide emergency vaccinations or medicines to the entire town. Currently, a basic plan exists in which population from the three towns of New Marlborough, Great Barrington, and Monterey would converge on one Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) in Great Barrington. The goal of an EDS is to be able to provide for the entire population over a brief three-day period. One of the most difficult issues confronting this plan is staffing the site, a common problem throughout the entire country.

One solution is to utilize volunteers from the community through what is called a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (BCBOHA) is taking on the responsibility of organizing this very important resource. The bottom line is this; in the event of a large-scale disaster it is up to the people of the community to help each other. We will get material assistance from the state and federal governments but it is up to us as a community to utilize that assistance. Please take some time to seriously consider being a part of this effort. All MRC volunteers will work within their own community—you will be helping your neighbors. As it stands now, that translates into helping out at the EDS in Great Barrington. If the number of MRC volunteers is great enough in Monterey we might be able to consider setting up an EDS subsite in Monterey.

Berk. Medical Reserve Corps

The Berkshire MRC is committed to serving all of Berkshire County's 32 communities, 16 Emergency Dispensing Sites, and three hospitals in the event of a Public Health emergency. To achieve this goal, MRC volunteers are organized into teams by community, by EDS (each town has at least one or is partnering with neighboring towns to share one), and by local hospital. A MRC Team Leader from each town identifies potential MRC volunteers; BCBOHA then registers, credentials, and trains these people to respond to emergencies and function as part of their local emergency preparedness teams. The Berkshire MRC supplements existing emergency and public health resources and agencies such as Red Cross, fire, police, boards of health, and ambulance services.

MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Retired or part-time medical professionals with or without a current license are especially valuable. For each medical professional, our MRC also needs at least five supporting team members who can direct traffic, drive trucks, or register people; interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisers, and others can fill these key support positions. There is a place in the Berkshire MRC for **all** interested volunteers, including those who are already active in Citizen Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

As a volunteer, you are welcome to customize your level of activity and be notified of every training and response situation throughout the county, or only be called up during a surge.

Additionally, the four counties of Western Massachusetts have formed a Western Mass Medical Reserve Corps website to standardize registration, credentialing, and training. You can soon visit us at www.wmmrc.org. For information about the MRC on the state or national level, visit http://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/.

Interested in becoming a Team Leader in your community or joining the Berkshire MRC? Please contact the Berkshire MRC Coordinator: Sandra Martin, (413) 528-6132 or email info@bcboha.org or go to www.bcboha.org.

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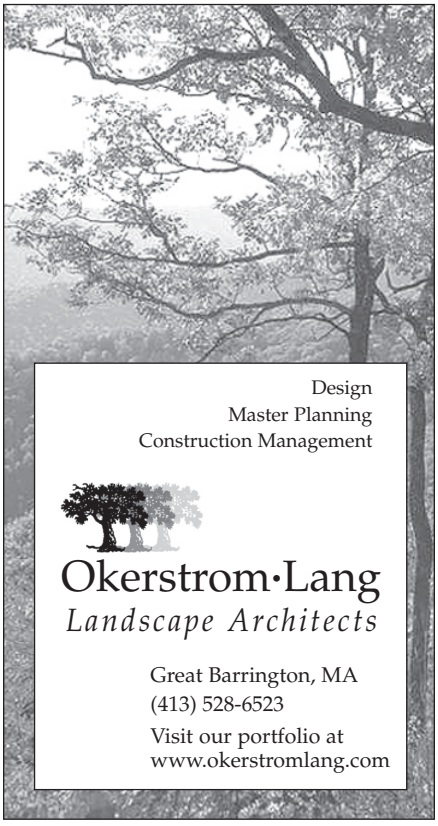

Gould Farm Board

At its recent annual meeting, the board of directors and associates of Gould Farm elected Kathleen P. Wasiuk as president and Stanley Ross as vice president of the board. Both are from Monterey. New directors are William Johnson of Monterey; June O'Neill of New York and Stockbridge; John Otenasek of Harrisonburg, Virginia; Robert Rubenstein of Mill River and Armonk; and Leah Tchack of New York. New associate board members are Dr. Stuart Bartle of Lenox; Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly of Newton; Steven Schwartz of Longmeadow and Monterey; Roberta Weiss of Monterey; and Carter White of West Stockbridge.

Mrs. Wasiuk has served as clerk and vice president of the board and has chaired Development, Nominating and Human Resources Committees at Gould Farm. A graduate of the University of Arizona (BA) and Dartmouth (MA), Mrs. Wasiuk was most recently Executive Assistant to the Head of the School at Northfield Mount Herman, where she served in several positions from 1988–2003.

Mr. Ross, retired senior partner of a Long Island accounting firm, has lived fulltime in Monterey since 1998. He holds a BA from Syracuse University and an MBA in Accounting and Finance from New York University. He has chaired Gould Farm's Finance Committee and is chairman of the Board of Assessors in Monterey.

Mr. Johnson chairs the Development Council/Annual Gifts Committee and the Marketing Committee at Gould Farm. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Northeastern University (MBA) and has served as CEO of Digital Equipment Corporation and as general manager of a division of IBM. His business experience also includes corporate restructuring, business strategies, marketing, and engineering.

Mrs. O'Neill is a member of the Farm's Finance Committee. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College (BA) and Columbia University (Ph.D. in Economics), Mrs. O'Neill's professional career includes Director of the Congressional Budget Office, membership on the President's Council of Economic Advisors (1971–1976), The Urban Institute, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Mrs. O'Neill has served on the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Advisory Board of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Mr. Otenasek is program manager for Crossing Creeks, a residential program in Virginia modeled after Gould Farm. He is a former Gould Farm volunteer and staff member, working in both the Monterey and Boston area programs. Mr. Otenasek is the facilitator of a support group for people with mental illness and serves on the board of the Virginia Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association.

Mr. Rubinstein is on the Building and Grounds Committee. A graduate of Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, he has been actively involved in construction management and consulting. He has taught for many years at NYU in the Construction Management Program and is the founder of NASCO Construction Services, Inc., where he oversees a team of professionals who act as owner's representatives and specialize in construction cost analysis.

Mrs. Tchack has served as an associate board member and a member of the Development Committee and is presently on the Archives Committee. She is a graduate of Queens College, CUNY (BA in psychology) and has been associated with Gould Farm since 1983.

Dr. Bartle lives in Lee and was Gould Farm's consulting psychiatrist from 1999 to 2005. A Harvard graduate (BA), he earned his MD at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center and trained in psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and Mt. Sinai in New York City. Dr. Bartle served on the faculty of the University of Zimbabwe Medical School in Harare and was a staff psychiatrist at Berkshire Mental Health in the Berkshire Medical Center for 18 years (retiring in 2006).

Mrs. Garrigan-Byerly came to Gould Farm as a volunteer in 2001 after graduating from Bloomsburg University with a BA in Social Work. In February 2003 she became Residential Manager and in April 2005 became Harvest Barn Manager. She recently left the Farm to begin studies for a Master of Divinity degree.

Mr. Schwartz is a graduate of Babson College (in accounting) and Boston University School of Law. He practices law in Springfield and has served on the boards of a number of nonprofit organizations.

Mrs. Weiss is the Rehabilitation Coordinator at the Lee Visiting Nurse Association. She graduated from Ohio State University with a degree and certification in physical therapy and practiced in New York City before moving to the Berkshires.

Mr. White is a principal in Deely & White, Consultants to Non-Profit Organizations. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College (BA). Formerly Vice President of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation in Great Barrington, Mr. White worked in business, accounting, and computer consulting for many years.

Gould Farm is a psychosocial rehabilitation facility that provides comprehensive services to adults with mental illness.

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Letter from College
A Visit from the Chief Justice

Middlebury College's annual John Hamilton Fulton Lecture in the Liberal Arts was delivered by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. The event was in honor of Former Chief Justice Rehnquist and announced the establishment of the Justice William H. Rehnquist Professorship of American History and Culture at Middlebury.

It was an honor to hear the Chief Justice speak. His speech was not political, but rather in memory of a great public servant. It was clear immediately how thoughtful he is, and his eloquence and humor made for a well-rounded and engaging lecture. The more thought-provoking aspect came during the question and answer section, which was longer than the 22-minute lecture itself. When asked about the court and what he saw as the single most important issue over the next five years, he responded that balancing privacy and security issues with new and better technology in the globalizing world was the primary challenge he saw the court facing. He is also a strong champion of the law and the importance of separation of powers within our government. In response to a comment that some see the court as the weakest branch he amended that statement by saying it was the most limited branch, as it is only able to respond to questions of law and constitutionality. Chief Justice Roberts said everyday he is faced with the knowledge that he was not elected and that his decisions must be based within the law and the precedents set. He saw arguments in court under Chief Justice Rehnquist become less free-ranging and more grounded in the law.

Many students later expressed that they were hoping for a more politically thought-provoking talk, as opposed to the honorary lecture. However from Chief Justice Robert's tribute to former Chief Justice Rehnquist, his high value of the law and the court's importance as an independent judiciary was clearly evident. Also notable were his respect and pride in the ideals and history of our country as well as the important role we have in modeling our principles and system of government.

Although some of his positions are ones I do not agree with, and I have not been swayed from my beliefs, I was nonetheless impressed by his comments. In this time of heated elections on every level of government, I like to be reminded of the fact that we are allowed to have debates and choose our representatives. Certainly cynics will say our system is far from perfect, and they are right. The Chief Justice said one of the most surprising things in his job was the number of people visiting the U.S. from foreign countries to witness the actual independence of the judiciary branch. Perhaps it does not always seem to be as independently motivated as it should, but it seems as though Chief Justice Roberts values this attribute very highly and for that I am hopeful.

We are privileged to live in a republican democracy. After spending five weeks in my comparative politics class examining other systems and nondemocratic regimes I'll gladly accept our system of government, flaws and all, because accountability and reform remain an option. We could live in a country such as North Korea where there is no freedom of press, where government housing comes equipped with radios that spew propaganda and cannot be turned off. We could have a one-party system without our extensive liberties like Communist China, or we could live in a Russian-style democracy that seems largely questionable in practice. It is important to have both the legislative and executive as elected branches and a judiciary that can attempt to provide a power check in determining the constitutionality of laws in an attempt to ensure the people's rights. I have yet to take constitutional law here at Middlebury, and I'm looking forward to it. In the meantime I'll continue to appreciate the ideals that underline our system of government even in times when they become blurred.

Although American history goes further back than the establishment of our constitution, the longtime existence of our stated democracy is something to be proud of. Despite all the emerging corruption, potentially devastating choices in foreign policy, and disturbing lack of attention to some critical domestic issues, Election Day is November 7 — the first general election in which I will cast my ballot. Voting is only one form of political participation, but I am a minority woman and I do qualify to vote. In the not-so-recent past that was not a given right. Despite some of Chief Justice Roberts' views, his speech was a humbling reminder of how lucky we are as Americans, and I hope to never lose sight of that.

— Tarsi Dunlop

Kate Cunningham

Brian Puntin and friend.

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To The Artist

Yellow and lavender; wan rose.
These pallid tints go paler in the mind
of him, who striving, beaten
by the icy rains of middle March,
cannot remember Spring. But the artist's mind.
Even in the rain-washed winds the flicker
of a glow. She, who could not do otherwise,
fans flicker to rose and yellow; lavender –
strong hues. And he, confused among the howlings,
is salvaged entirely in the blessing of her art.

— Jim Michelman

The Green Chair

I'm tilted back, with feet up high,
my sightline pointed to the sky.
Between porch posts I scan the trees,
whose top leaves rustle in the breeze.
Perched here, the only things I see
are clouds, and sky and greenery.
As though I'd never been indoors,
or faced a host of urgent chores.
A lovely moment in my lair.
So heavenly–this great green chair.

— Ed Schur

The black willow has drunk from the fountain of age

The black willow has drunk
from the fountain of age.
With all its greens glorious
like bunches of grapes for giants
it looks at its own death and waves.
I don't want anything to die
but think how crowded it would be
if nothing did.
The world would be full of wrinkly things.
The trees wouldn't know what to do
with all those leaves.
And as for the weeds
which I know you don't call weeds. God,
let me not think about it.
Right now the sky is crying for the living.
Heron comes in for a landing big as a plane
and heads for his chick hidden up in the rushes like Moses.

— Elizabeth Caffrey

school

unnoticed,
like an ant,
hurry,
like a bird going south
trapped in a sea of people,
war,
hope for my future
dislike of work.
dislike of the obstacles I must work
around,
trying to earn the grades I need,

Teachers,
Hard to impress,
Hard to avoid.

— Margarete Foster (age 14)

Annals of the Monterey School: Part 2

In 1967 the Monterey School was slated to become a kindergarten, changing from multiple grades one and two. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandated that all school districts were to have kindergartens by 1968, and our district was going to be a year ahead. But there was a slight problem: some parents in Monterey were not sure that a kindergarten would be considered a real grade, particularly as it would only be half-day. The fear was that a half-day kindergarten would violate the five-town Southern Berkshire Regional School District agreement, which stated that a grade school be maintained in each town. I visited all the prospective parents to describe the new program and the state mandate. There was a cooperative preschool in the library basement with Gail Heath as teacher, and she was planning to retire. Once it was explained, the new Monterey Kindergarten seemed fill the bill as a replacement.

A one-room schoolhouse is a very special place and doubly so for a kindergarten. There is an independence of spirit, a sense of ownership, and bells and time constraints don't drive the day. There is a certain freedom and some challenges. One of the changes from a multiple-grade classroom with slightly older children was that a part-time aide was to be hired. We were truly blessed when Anne Vickerman was hired. Her warm and nurturing nature brought out the best in our children.

All those years ago the curriculum was not so tied to academics. The emphasis was on socialization and readiness for reading—the alphabet, left-to-right progression, even turning pages. Today it seems that most children come with reading readiness skills already in place. To what do we owe that? *Sesame Street* and other children's television programs? Maybe? The late 60s and early 70s were the heydays of some wonderful children's classics: *Make Way for Ducklings, Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel, Little Toot,* and *The Little Engine that Could,* and so many others. All of these could so easily become "art" lessons and cut-and-paste small-muscle activities.

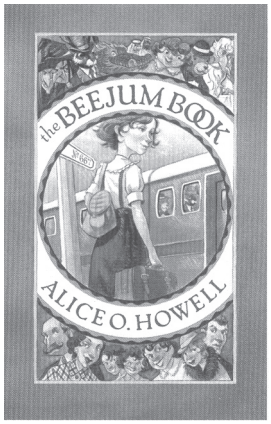
We had the freedom to take advantage of community opportunities. When Kay and Tom Gillis owned Brookmead Farm on New Marlborough Road, they kept sheep that sometime in the spring would need to be sheared. They couldn't be sure exactly when the shearing would take place, but as soon as the shearer arrived Kay would call and invite the school over. What a privilege to see the wool roll off as the sheep squealed and wiggled under the deft hand of the shearer.

People that the kids knew from the community came to visit and talk to us. Mr. Julius Miner came to tell us about the general store which and his twin brother Lester had run. He brought his stuffed flying squirrel and told us that flying squirrels were much more common years ago and maybe we might see one. Doug Lyman, the Police Chief, came to talk about safety and pass out coloring books.

One morning as we sat in our circle for story time the children were giggly and pointing to the window. There hanging from the big old maple and peering in was the little boy from across the street whose parents owned Brookbend Inn. His little brother was in the present year's class, and he was home from school as the upper grades had the day off. I went outside and invited him to come in. He was shy, but delighted, and joined the circle. The kids were thrilled with their young visitor. I felt good that on his day off he wanted to be part of our school.

About that big old maple in the play yard. It was decided that it had to come down. Soon a big yellow cherry picker lumbered into the yard, drawing all the children to the window. You can certainly read those wonderful books about building equipment, but here was the real thing. As the operator started to work, I went out and asked him if he would come in

These wonderful books from Monterey's own Alice O. Howell make peerfect Christmas gifts!



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— Andrew Harvey, author of ***The Direct Path***

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and tell the class about his machine and what he was doing. He was a little taken aback, but agreed and did a great job. At recess each child was able to stand in the cherry picker bucket. Then we returned to the classroom and watched the tree come down and drew a picture about it to share our experience at home.

I left the Monterey School in 1970 to teach at the laboratory school at Westfield State College. Susan Andersen came in 1974, and we are fortunate that she is still teaching our kids. The kindergarten is now a full-day program. When it was half-day, I went to the New Marlborough School in the afternoon and taught what was then called "remedial reading." The New Marlborough School is another educational gem in our school district where every child is real. Each one is known to all to the teachers of all five grades.

There is tradition in a one-room schoolhouse as the generations of children attend the school. Fathers and mothers, and sometimes grandmothers and grandfathers, can tell of their experiences in that very building. The building itself is a stabilizing influence in the center of town. Yes, it needs some upgrading, and I understand that the district is looking into repairs. But there is more there than wood and stone; there's a spirit for our town and our children that we don't want to lose.

— Gige O'Connell

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A Tribute To Keswick's "Pop"

Pop Courtney is remembered by many in Monterey and surrounding communities as a legend. His full name was Roy Joel Courtney, but he was known by everyone simply as "Pop." He kept his age private, but his gravestone indicates he was born February 2, 1883, and "died" June 11, 1972, which would have made him 89. He was a World War I veteran.

D. L. Moody, founder of the well-known Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, left this epitaph: "Some day you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now, I shall have gone up higher, that is all; out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch; that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.... That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever."

Pop left such a legacy in developing New England Keswick as a landmark in the community that serves not only in training young people at summer camp, but in reaching out to adult groups that come for retreats throughout the year.

The Keswick Bible verse is John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent".

New England Keswick is an outgrowth of what was once called the Berkshire Bible Fellowship, which, in 1929, bought a big parcel of farmland belonging to Mr. J. Stedman and Mr. C. Cronk. From 1929 through 1941, the present New England Keswick was used as a training center for missionary candidates of the Sudan Interior Mission. Pop was a plumbing contractor in New York City who came to Monterey to help Sudan Interior Mission build and establish a candidate school for missionaries

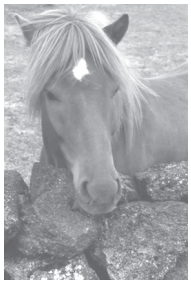
In 1940, after Sudan Interior Mission acquired a large building in New York City and it became apparent that use of the grounds and buildings in Monterey would no longer be needed for the missionary candidates The Berkshire Bible Fellowship terminated its ministry in Monterey. It was in 1941 that New England Keswick was incorporated. "Pop" was then the founder of New England Keswick.

In 2003 Keswick acquired the former Hephzibah Heights Bible Conference grounds, just up the hill and across the road. This facility, now called The Heights, allows accommodation of more campers and retreat guests.

This year we are celebrating the 65th anniversary of the forming of New England Keswick. On October 21 we held the second annual Fall Harvest Festival, a day filled with a variety of events, such as the popular hay ride and other activities, including a cookout about noon. The weather was cool but bright and pleasant. It was a real privilege to see many folks from Monterey. Thank you all for your support of your neighbor, New England Keswick, in this way.

If you would like to come just to walk around, enjoy the grounds, and find out more about Keswick, you are welcome anytime. We are located at 73 Chestnut Hill Road in Monterey.

— Paul Dixon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Drawdown: The Late October Swamp Report

It was boots on the ground today, none of your strategic theory. We were there, in the rain, in our gear, with our dog, eyes wide open. Here's what we saw. Plenty of red, still, in the barberry leaves and fruits, also deeper in the raspberry leaves, and here and there the unreal brilliance of the winterberries, making us blink.

Steady rain, trying out a new pair of boots said to be waterproof, which I doubt.

Chugging through the woods, down, down to Lake Garfield along that old path older than us. Cross House Brook, beside whose banks in July 1948 I am said to have been conceived. The brook is roaring now with rain, definitely a life force, so maybe it's true. Skirt the East Garfield Swamp for a look at the lake. It's a mudflat here, surprisingly green. Once our ancestors' cows grazed on this ground, then headed up the hill for milking. The dam raised the lake and drowned the pasture, but there was more good living in attractive recreational bodies of water than in dairy farming, or so it seemed at the time. The ancestor was all for it. Drowned his pasture but made the lakeshore longer: good for tax revenue. He was a selectman and a good citizen.

Older than us also is the beaver dam here on the east end, currently in disrepair. The beavers slide over into the lake and invest their home-building there, also their winter food storage. Should be nothing wrong with this, but here in Monterey mid-October brings drawdown and mudflats, leaving beaver futures in disarray. Some years they scramble back into the old pond and patch up the dam in time to put some branches in the mud and make it through the winter. Doesn't look so likely this year as the old beaver house within the pond has collapsed. Starting now on home-building and food storage seems crazy. The handsome new lake house and its food supply are suddenly sitting exposed on the mud, entrances available to any predator looking for a beaver kitten. We all have to eat.

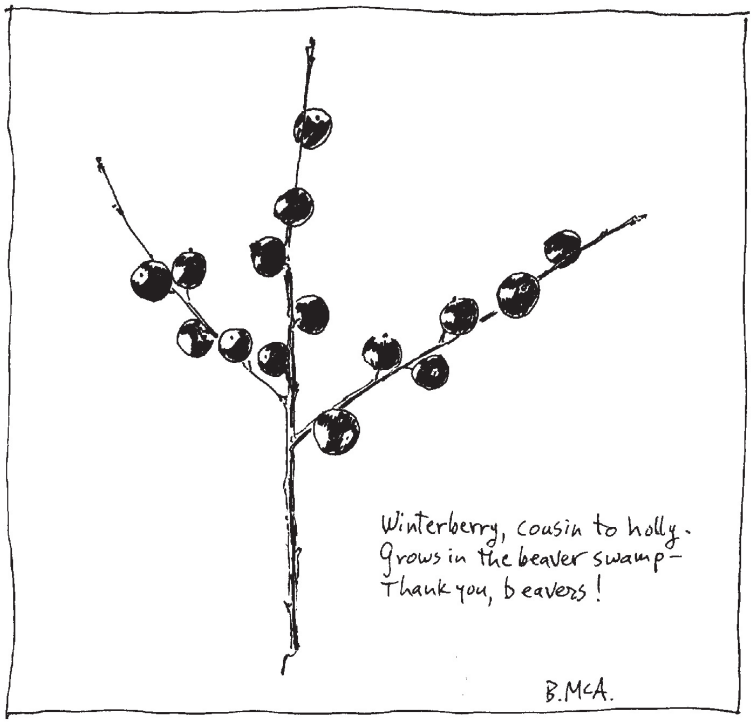
There's always the possibility of moving downstream or to some other system, such as the one on Peppermint Brook. But you'd still have to start over.

Beavers don't care about politics or property values. Property is not a beaver concept. They don't worry about pondweeds or ice-damage to boating or swimming docks. They just do what they were born to do, evolved to do, and sometimes it plain does not work out, for various reasons.

What struck us today (and the boots are NOT waterproof, by the way) was a wish not to be one of those reasons. It's not only the beavers, of course. They are the obvious ones. Get down in the mud and there are thousands, millions of life-plans gone wrong. They will dry out. They will freeze.

We got home and wrung out our socks, imagined taking the boots back with a complaint. Wet dog on the floor, supper coming soon. Some of us are just born lucky.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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Reading the Landscape Talk

Have you ever wondered why the landscape looks as it does? Why stonewalls were built or why pine trees dominate certain areas while maples flourish elsewhere? Renowned author and popular speaker Tom Wessels answers these questions through his intriguing history of the Highlands' forests as he uncovers its past uses through careful examination of small, often overlooked details.

Mr. Wessels' lecture will lecture on Reading the Forested Landscape on November 30, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Becket Elementary School. The event is free and open to the community.

The Highland Communities Initiative is pleased to welcome Tom Wessels to the Highlands of western Massachusetts as part of its efforts to help people appreciate and learn more about their place in the Highlands. Mr. Wessels brings alive the intricate and evolving story of our region and our landscape by using clues such as the shape, size, and type of trees, the decay of stumps, and the location of stone walls as a means to unravel complex forest histories. In his book *Reading the Forested Landscape* and in his speeches, Wessels teaches us how to read these landscape features as evidence of past events such as the abandonment of agricultural land, the impacts of hurricanes, and past logging activity, as well as the impacts of blights and fire.

For information, call Mark Wamsley, 413-268-8219.

Monterey Library News

DSL is here—the library is hooked up and running. Since most of town can't hook up, come on down and download your programs faster than satellite.

Another big piece of news is that as of now the library is open another half hour on Saturday morning. Our new closing time is 12:30 p.m. We do ask that you be considerate of our hours and don't come in at 12:25 and expect to spend a lot of time browsing and requesting interlibrary loans.

Our next youth book discussion will be on November 6, with the older children starting at 6:30 p.m. Come on down and check out the nominated list of books for the Massachusetts Children's Book Award. We'll also be ending our "guess the total circulation of the 75 years this building has been in operation" contest. The kids will have one last chance to guess and then we'll see whose guess is closest.

On November 25th at 10:30 a.m., Denise Andrus will once again be on hand for storytime and crafts for children.

If you haven't had a chance to see our little exhibit about the history of the library, stop by before Thanksgiving. Special thanks to Linda Thorpe for putting that together. Thanks to Laurie Shaw for framing the portraits of our two former librarians. Also thanks to the Historical Society for opening their exhibits, and a special thanks to Karl Finger for leading our celebration last month.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Recent Library Acquisitions:

Adult Fiction

Echo Park, Michael Connelly
Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette, Sena Naslund
13th Tale, Diane Setterfield
The Stories of Mary Gordon, Mary Gordon
Black Girl, White Girl, Joyce Carol Oates
Collectors, David Baldacci
Corpse in the Koryo, James Church

Adult Nonfiction:

Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid, Bill Bryson
Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter, Colin Tudge
Truck: A Love Story, Bill Perry
Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, a Jew: 3 Women Search For Understanding, Ranya Idliby

Children's:

When Sheep Sleep, Laura Numeroff
Winter Is the Warmest Season, Lauren Stringer

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Indian Summer and Native Roots of Thanksgiving

According to The Free Encyclopedia, Wikipedia, Indian summer usually occurs after autumnal equinox, and more frequently well after the first frost. It may be measured as when the daily temperature is above 70 degrees for the better part of a week, and then followed by a cold and rainy period of weather.

In England, it is given the name of "Old Wives Summer" and has a spring counterpart in April or early May. In Germany it refers to the changing of leaves in autumn. In eastern America, the term has been in usage for two centuries, so named for the traditional period when Native Americans would harvest their crops.

In colonial records of frontier history, it was also when Indian scouts serving the militia often asked for leave from their duties to go home to hunt and fish to build up food supplies before the first snow would fly. So more often than not, it was a time to stop any fighting among themselves and put aside their differences and tend to the basic survival tasks ahead.

When they saw the flocks of migrating birds high overhead, the autumnal spawning of brook trout in the streams, ripening berries, and an abundance of ground nuts on the forest floor, they knew it was time to harvest their spring plantings. Today many of their crops have been preserved and perpetuated by the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy, and are grown locally every summer in The Bidwell House Museum Colonial Vegetable Garden.

Even though the museum is now closed for the season, Indian summer can be revisited at the garden next to the authentic re-creation of a wigwam constructed by the late David McAllester. The primitive structure also bears a handmade wreath in honor of his memory and generous contributions to the museum with song and dance on Native American Day events.

A few years ago, the garden itself was featured on the cover of *Yankee Magazine,* highlighting the hallmark of Indian crops, "the three sisters" — flint corn, pole beans, and squash, all planted in the same hill. The corn stalk provided a ladder for the beans to climb, and the broad squash leaves provided shade to prevent growth of weeds. Other plantings included Tonowanda tobacco and pumpkins.

If we sit down to a traditional "Berkshire Grown" Thanksgiving dinner, as the Pilgrims did with some sixty Wampanoags, we are in a way also celebrating a heritage of Indian summer. Their cultures were worlds apart, but they taught us well how to live off the land. It is also very appropriate for us to set aside our differences, and share with others, as they did!

— George Emmons

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"My Place is the Highlands" Outreach Campaign

Hattie Plehn knew she had a diamond in the rough when she first saw the old 250-acre orchard that would eventually become her Worthington home. Polishing the land to its full potential, however, would be a daunting task full of tough decisions. The orchard was once a vibrant part of the local economy and landscape. Since then, it had been vandalized and left abandoned. As Hattie recalls, "The vandalism had included setting the fields on fire, so most of the orchard had been destroyed." Oriental bittersweet, an invasive plant, grew rampantly after the fire, threatening the orchard's surviving remnants. If those obstacles were not enough, Hattie also worried about restoring the orchard if development pressures would threaten the property and the area in the future. She could not shake the memory of how the rural land where she grew up was developed into hundreds of houses, seemingly overnight.

Still, Hattie was not deterred. She envisioned her orchard providing a home for her family and again becoming an asset to the community. It would be a place where her family and local residents picked blueberries from the bushes dotting the hillsides; where people could walk, and enjoy a landscape flush with wildlife. Realizing the opportunities and choices in front of them, Hattie and her late husband, Worthington Selectman and Highland Communities Initiative founder Stephen Plehn, made the decision to manage their property in a way that would enhance the rural character of the Highlands of western Massachusetts. In addition to maintaining community ties to the old orchard, the Plehns developed a forest management plan and put their woods into Chapter 61, reducing their taxes while helping to preserve the working forest. The plan has led to several timber cuts, providing income to the family while increasing wildlife habitat. Hattie has also donated a conservation restriction on most of the property to the Hilltown Land Trust, which will ensure that the land surrounding her home will remain rural and undeveloped forever.

One person like Hattie Plehn can make a big difference in preserving the character of the Highlands. That is why the Highland Communities Initiative (HCI) is launching its regional outreach campaign called "My Place is the Highlands." The outreach campaign features the new publication, *Your Land, Your Choices,* as well as special events, and an unveiling of the "My Place is the Highlands" logo. HCI hopes this logo will become a symbol of local pride, visible throughout the Highlands region and beyond.

Highland landowners shoulder the responsibility of caring for thousands of acres of a vast and healthy forest, and have an array of choices to make about the management and future of their land. A startling 80 percent of the woodlands in the Highlands region are owned by 14,700 private individuals and families. Since forests give the Highlands region much of its unique beauty and rural character, the collective effect of each landowner's individual decisions about his or her property will determine the future of the region's quality of life, wildlife habitat, water quality and community character.

In light of this shared responsibility, HCI is kicking off "My Place is the Highlands" with the availability of its newest publication, *Your Land, Your Choices,* which describes options for landowners facing two critical decisions: to harvest their trees and to conserve their land. The booklet provides detailed and straightforward advice on where to seek assistance in making these informed decisions, including the many people and organizations that are available resources.

As a visible way to celebrate the region, every household in the Highlands will also receive a "My Place is the Highlands" window sticker through a mailing in late October. The stickers are a way to show pride in the place we live and to recognize others who share an appreciation of the beauty, heritage, and rural quality of life in the Highlands.

Copies of *Your Land, Your Choices* are free and available by returning the order form accompanying your new Highlands window sticker, by downloading from the HCI website www.highlandcommunities.org, or by calling HCI directly. For further information, please contact: Mark Wamsley, Program and Outreach Assistant, at 413-268-8219.

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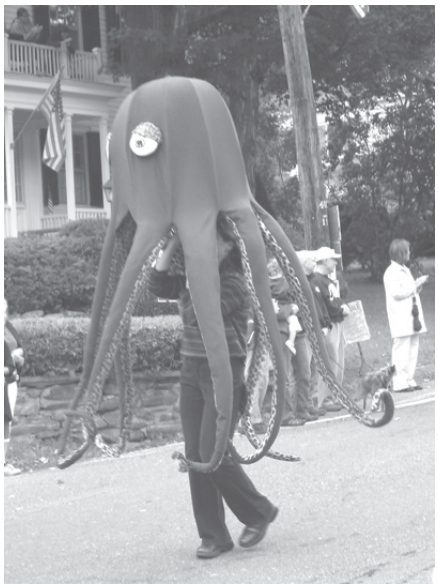

All sorts of odd creatures showed up for the I Love Monterey Day parade. (Photos by Jules Dahlman)

Osprey Sighting

On Wednesday afternoon, October 25, I spotted an osprey hovering over Lake Buel, studying the water, looking for fish. I was puzzled because I thought this bird usually lived north and east of us, and I thought perhaps it was a hawk or young eagle, but then it did what in the raptor family only osprey do; It dove talons first into the lake, making a big splash. What it came up with was hard to see, but the markings and behavior were osprey characteristics. It was a joy to see what once was a bird recovering from decline due to pesticide poisoning, flying gracefully over a lake in Monterey on a chilly autumn day.

— Stephen Rose

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CET offers Cleaner Heat Option for Oil Consumers

Berkshire County heating oil customers can now purchase a cleaner heating oil through the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) Bio-Heat Co-op. Bio-Heat—a blend of 5% refined soybean oil and 95% petroleum-based, low-sulfur heating oil (#2 heating oil)—is cleaner burning and better than conventional heating oil for the environment and public health. Bio-Heat (this blend is also called B-5) produces less sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions, as well as less carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions—the most common greenhouse gas associated with global climate changes. Because Bio-Heat burns cleaner than conventional fuel, it is also better for heating-system maintenance. B-5 can increase burner life and reduce maintenance costs, and can be used in any conventional oil burner without any additions or modification to the existing system.

Bio-Heat is made from U.S. grown renewable products like soybean oil. Using it strengthens our economy and increases our energy independence by reducing our reliance on imported oil.

Members of the CET Bio-Heat Co-op can purchase Bio-Heat from a full-service oil dealer participating in the Co-op. Co-op members are less subject to market-based price fluctuations, especially high prices that have nothing to do with the wholesale price of oil, but instead are inflated because of supply disruptions, future-based markups, or other market forces. Co-op members pay the dealer's wholesale price plus a fixed markup. As the wholesale price rises or falls, the Co-op price goes up and down accordingly. The annual fee to join the Bio-Heat Co-op is $15 per household, $25 for businesses, and $7 for students and low-income households.

For more information on the Co-op, call CET at 413-445-4556 x 24, or visit cetonline.org.

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Remembering Enes Grassis

Enes L. Grassis, 93, of Sylvan Road, Monterey, died October 3 at Timberlyn Heights, where she had resided for the last several years. She had been a summer resident of Monterey since 1950 and a permanent resident since 1978.

Born in New York City on Sept. 1, 1913, daughter of Julius and Teresa Ansaldi Mensi, she graduated from Evander Childs High School in New York City.

At one time, she was employed as a bookkeeper. She also worked as a prep cook with her granddaughter at her granddaughter's restaurant, Viviani's Restaurante in Great Barrington.

She was a communicant of St. Peter's Church, and enjoyed baking and crocheting.

She was the widow of Richard Grassis. She leaves a son, Richard Grassis of LaVallete, N.J.; a daughter, Georgianna Pecorelli Eschen of Monterey; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves a daughter-in-law, Maryann; two grandchildren, Nancy Pecorelli and Randy and his wife, Marilyn Pecorelli; three great-grandchildren, Cristina Temenos, Vincent and Iris Pecorelli.

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Post Office Parking Signs

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to see for the second time the U.S. Postal Service restricting parking for themselves and for post office patrons on the west side of the post office. I believe that a portion of the painted yellow markings that delineate these parking spaces could be on the town right-of-way. In my discussion with the post office, it was made it clear to me that the law requires them to provide parking for post office patrons. It was also stated that when the post office is closed anyone can use the parking spaces, although this is not specified on the signs.

For as long as I can remember, the parking in the center of town has been shared, and unrestricted. Exceptions are the church which temporarily reserves space for the hearse when there is a funeral, the post office which clears the way for their mail delivery truck in a polite way, and the Monterey Store which reserves space for the delivery trucks. (I think the storekeeper enjoys kicking us out when delivery trucks arrive. It gets him out in the fresh air.) No store owners in Gt. Barrington would post signs in their windows restricting parking in front of their stores because it is town-owned land. These parking spaces that the Post Office has blocked off should be available to all townspeople, whether they are attending church services, returning a book at the library, patronizing the store, doing business at Town Hall, or picking up their mail. It is a hardship for our elderly, and an inconvenience for the rest of us, to have to find parking outside of the village center.

I ask that interested townspeople lobby the Select Board to ask the postal service to remove the signs and allow the parking to be as it was. If they are not successful, ask them to survey the roadway and mark out parallel parking spaces on town right-of-way. This would in effect block anybody from being able to use the present parking spaces marked off by the post office, and might convince the postal service to be more accommodating. We should urge the postal service to be more sympathetic to the geographic limitations of our small but beautiful village center and share this space, as has always been done in the past.

— Roger Tryon

Land Trust Annual Meeting

The Monterey Preservation Land Trust will hold its annual meeting on November 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Laurily Epstein, 4 Carl's Lane-Eaton Road. Members and the public are welcome.

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From the Editor

As editor of the *Monterey News,* I am always glad to get feedback, positive or negative, from readers about what they think of the *News* and how those of us involved are doing our jobs. However, I feel that the letter from Janet Cathcart attacking the town news column and town news reporter Laurily Epstein requires a response. Ms. Cathcart says that the town news column "has little to do with 'reporting'" and simply presents another "version of the minutes" of the Select Board meetings. This does not accurately reflect what Laury Epstein does.

The town reporter's job is to attend the Select Board meetings and report on what goes on (report: "to watch for and write about the newsworthy aspects or developments of"). That is exactly what Laury Epstein does, and she has been doing an excellent job of it. She has been going to almost every Select Board since January of 2005 and taking detailed notes on her laptop computer. She then writes a fairly detailed report of the proceedings based on her notes. She is not asked to do any reporting outside of the Select Board meetings—we are after all a small community paper with a limited budget, and our primary function is to provide a forum in which all of us in the community can talk to each other, have a conversation.

It is important to note that the town reporter's report is not based on the Select Board minutes, as Ms. Cathcart suggests, though of course the same issues appear in both. The minutes are the official record of the proceedings of the meetings, and as such are reviewed, vetted, and approved by the Select Board before they are made public. The town reports in the *News* are an independent voice. I find it troubling, especially in these times, that Ms. Cathcart would suggest that citizens would be better served by relying solely on government-approved versions of what the government is doing.

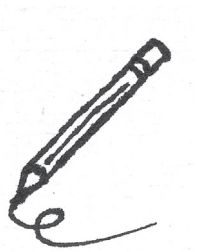
Sometimes the town reporter makes mistakes, and sometimes I make editorial mistakes; there can be a lot of rapid-fire discussion at the meetings, and details are not always clearly explained. When mistakes are brought to our attention, we correct them in the next issue.

Further, the official minutes in general present only the decisions made and the reports of the town departments; the discussions about the issues involved and the differing points of view are given only briefly, if at all; these are covered more fully in the town news in the *Monterey News*. Ms. Cathcart is apparently upset that points of view that disagree with her own were presented. I believe that differing points of view should be presented and that this will lead to a better discussion about and understanding of town issues. I would like to see more of this in the *News* (though here I will have to depend on readers to help). I think community conversations make us better prepared to make wise decisions at town meetings.

Finally, there is Ms. Cathcart's complaint that the description of the estimable Pat Edelstein as an "FLG activist" is unfair. The dictionary definition of activist is "one who emphasizes direct vigorous action in support of an issue." I do not see that as an inaccurate description of Ms. Edelstein's efforts (it seems to fit Ms. Cathcart's description of what Ms. Edelstein does as well)—and it certainly was not intended as an insult.

I would be most pleased to get more feedback from readers about the town news or any other aspects of the *News*.

— Will Marsh



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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Tuesday, November 7:

Election Day.

Program on Challenges of Raising Young Children in the New Millennium, led by Dr. Claudia Gold, Conference Room at Fairview Hospital. Preregistration requested; call 413-854-9611.

Wednesday, November 8: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. See p. 7

Thursday, November 9: Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Friday, November 10: Veterans Day observed.

Saturday, November 11:

Veterans Day.

Monterey Preservation Land Trust annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., at home of Laurily Epstein, 4 Carl's Lane-Eaton Road. Members and the public are welcome.

Tuesday November 14: Monterey Knitting Circle, 6–7:30 p.m., Monterey General Store.

Sunday, November 19: Joe Jencks in acoustic brunch concert to benefit community radio station WBCR-LP, 12:30 p.m., Club Helsinki, Great Barrington. $15, $8 for children. Call 413-528-3394 for reservations.

Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving.

Saturday, November 25:

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Jeff Walker. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Storytime and crafts for children, presented by Denise Andrus, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library

Thursday, November 30: Lecture by author Tom Wessels on Reading the Forested Landscape, 7:00 p.m., Becket Elementary School. Free. See p. 17.

Hockey Rink Ads Available

Attention Local Business Owners! Advertise your business at the Town Hockey Rink! Come paint your logo on the hockey backboards.

Submit your logo for approval to: Park Commission, Town Hall, Box 308, Monterey MA 01245. The tentative painting days are November 18–19.

The Observer
September 26 – October 25

High temp. (10/10)	74°
Low temp. (10/14)	27°
Avg. high temp.	58.6°
Avg. low temp.	37.6°
Avg. temp.	48.1°
Total rainfall	5.36 in.

Precipitation occurred on 10 days, trace of snow on 10/24.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Readers like you make it possible for us to continue publishing. We know you receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

Robert Norris & Barbara Bockbrader
William & Dorothy Enlund
William & Joyce Pasco
Susan Sellew
Eleanor Kimberley
Gerald & Barbara Green
Marjorie Perces
David & Jerry Shapiro
Sharon Wiles

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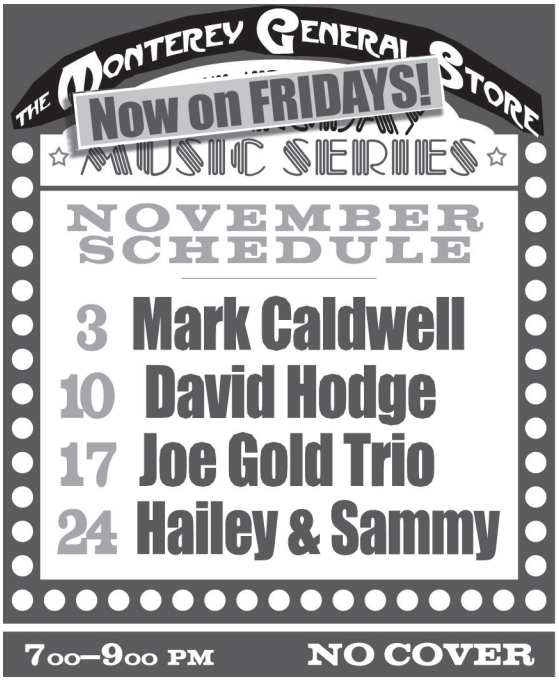

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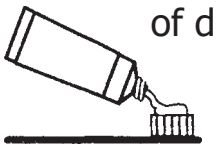

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or computer disk if possible) by the 20th of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to same address. We will set up an ad for your Monterey-based business or event, or advertisers may submit a computer formatted ad (pdf, tif, or jpeg formt) with graphics. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413·528-4347 or e-mail montnews@localnet.com.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Rachel Arnow, pp. 22, 23; Maureen Banner, p. 13, George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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